

that was the more formidable because, being mainly psychological, it was hard to measure, harder to get hold of and rebut That, inside the Labour and Trade Union movement, a definite phase of the new agitation was an attack on them, personally, and as the High Priests of Bureaucratic Collectivism, they took with *sangfroid* Just as they read *The New Machiavelh* without rancour and with real amusement, so they read Hilaire Belloc's *Senile State* They argued, on public platforms, and in their own drawing-room, with Mr Belloc and his friends, and with the new, young school of prophets of *The Mew Age*, with perfect good temper a serene affability that their opponents found intensely hard to bear

The "barrage" of hostile criticism, to which they were exposed was, of course, disagreeable They are human They did not enjoy it They enjoyed it the less, from the suddenness of its contrast But if it distressed them, the reason was because such attack appealed to, and derived its effectiveness from, dangerous elements of sheer irrationality and class bitterness They did fullest justice to the facts that lay behind the "disappointment with democracy" that was being exploited—the lag of wages behind prices the long failure to redress the blank injustice of the Osborne Judgment of 1909 (which made the political levy of the Trade Unions illegal—a position redressed in 1913, but put back by the Act of 1927), the particular hardships of many great groups of workers, of which

miners and railwaymen were the outstanding
cases, and
the general atmosphere of uncertainty and
restlessness
It perturbed them, however, gravely,
because it was
affecting, in first line, the two groups in the
community
to which they had, in first line, devoted their
most constant
efforts—the organised workers and the
intelligent young
These mattered infinitely more to them than the
politicians,
from whom they still held more or
less aloof